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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 21, 2018



The Southeast Conference would like to wish you a joyous Christmas and a grace filled New Year. May God grant us all a peaceful holiday season.

Heather, Carrole, and Don

From the Transitional Conference Minister

Grace and peace! Advent to me is a time of mystery. It is an opportunity to acknowledge that there is much beyond our control, but we are not alone. It is the reminder that God is with us always, but at times we need to

wait for that glimpse that appears - and wait with hope. We are about to celebrate the answer to our hope as we celebrate Christmas and God's presence through Jesus. This is foundational to us as Christians, informing how we move into the future.

I am excited and honored to serve you as the Transitional Conference Minister during the coming months, providing an opportunity to be the people of God in the midst of uncertainty. In many ways, these are exciting times because we are called to be grounded in what is most important as followers of Jesus; and to be open to new insights in the midst of change.

My husband and I had the joy of moving to Pleasant Hill, TN two years ago. But for the past 36 years, I have been involved in interim/transitional ministry serving in local churches, as well as Conference staff positions. I have served as Interim Conference Minister or Interim Associate Conference Minister in eight different Conferences (Northern California Nevada, Pacific Northwest, Hawaii, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri Mid-South, Penn Central, and Penn West Conferences).

From these experiences, I maintain three particular understandings that continue to inform my ministry:

1. There is no one way to be a UCC Conference;
2. The world of the church is changing rapidly and we are challenged to support one another through the changes;
3. God continues to be present with miracles and insights through all the transitions.

I will begin as the Transitional Conference Minister on January 1, 2019. At that time, I will be seeking your assistance. We are a diverse Conference in many ways and I am looking forward to making connections with churches and pastors, and discovering how we can be supportive of one another. My position is half-time, so I will also be seeking expedient ways to make those connections. However, I am confident that we can work together to make it happen.

Meanwhile, may the Advent/Christmas season bring you a sense of the mystery, hope, and joy of our faith.

Blessings.
Char Burch



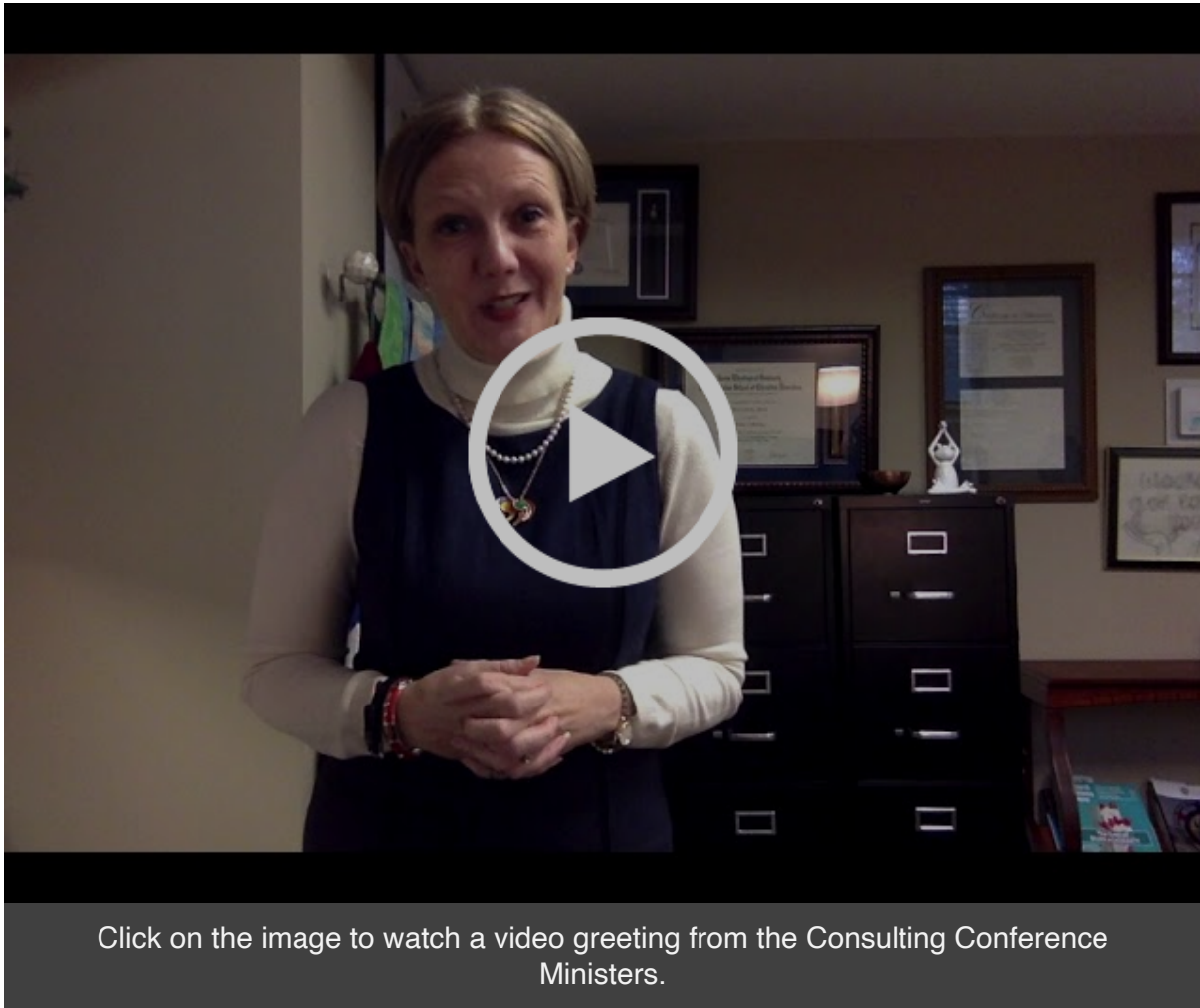
Greetings from the Consulting Conference Ministers

On behalf of the Rev. Dr. Don Longbottom, the Rev. John Vertigan and myself (Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel), we want to thank you for the honor and privilege it has been to serve as your Conference Minister Consultants for the Southeast Conference.

As we complete our ministry with you, we give thanks for the dynamic ways God is inspiring each of you to offer Christ's inclusive love throughout the Southeast Conference. We will keep you in our prayers as the Rev. Char Burch begins her ministry with you in 2019.

Blessings, Ginny





From the Generosity Coordinator

Advent Blessings,

2018 is coming to an end. It's been a hard year for many of us as we have all suffered some losses and some wins. Our voices have resonated through our culture in unprecedented ways, and with it, the stories continue to be heard and your OCWM (Our Churches Wider Missions) dollars continue to be used to support those in need. It has not been an easy year, but it has been essential and inspiring to all those who continue to give and share resources with all those in need.



Friendly reminder: **The books will close January 11 2019 for your OCWM and other special mission offerings ([are you a 5 for 5 church?](#)) for 2018.** All monies received after January 11, 2019 will count toward your 2019

OCWM and special offerings total. Our work is possible because of all of you who continue to give, to support and are dedicated to making our faith communities and this conference stronger. Thank you for being such an important part of this work.

I look forward to visiting with you in 2019. Please continue to invite me to your churches as we continue this journey together.

I wish you all peace, healing and community. May we all find peace, grace, strength and courage in the new year.

Peace unto you,

Min. Carrole Moss
Generosity Coordinator
860-655-6254
cmoss@secucc.org

News from the Conference Office



Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2018. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers. [Click here to download the entire 2018 prayer list.](#)

Week of December 24

- Pleasant Hill Community Church; Pleasant Hill, Tennessee

- Tiffany Gibson Cox
- Eddie Colf
- Andrew Kim
- Nelson Kittle
- William Wilson Jr

Week of December 31

- Kirkwood UCC; Atlanta, GA
- Jennifer Crane
- Sarah Kim
- Bill Lawrence
- Sharon Temple
- Karl Whiteman

Churches in Transition: United Church of Huntsville, Huntsville AL; Emmanuel, Greenville SC; First Congregational, Birmingham AL; Pilgrimage, Marietta GA; First Congregational Christian, Montgomery AL; First Congregational, Savannah GA; Peace Church, Clemson SC.

Annual Authorized Minister Review

As we look to the close of 2018 it is time for the Yearly Information Review for All Authorized Ministers in the Southeast Conference. The information review is a way for the Commission on Ministry, on behalf of the Southeast Conference, to find out what you have been doing this year in your ministry and find out how they can support you in the year to come.

The form will only take a couple of minutes to complete, and it will help the Conference make sure we have correct contact information and maintain our Covenant with each of the Ministers within the Southeast Conference.

You can either [fill out the form online here](#) or you can [download and print the form here](#) and mail it to the Southeast Conference, PO Box 1950, Decatur GA 30031.

Please have your Information Review to the Southeast Conference by February 28, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Heather Fosburgh at hfosburgh@secucc.org or 404-719-6572.

MID/PIE Retreat: January 18 & 19 in Atlanta

Calling all MIDs (Members in Discernment) and PIEs (Person's in Exploration) and all interested in pursuing ministry in the United Church of Christ. You are invited to the MID retreat January 18 and 19 in Atlanta.

The retreat will be led by Victoria Markham, PsyD on the Enneagram. Dr. Markham is a psychologist who worked in private practice in California for 25 years. She also taught at The Institute for Transpersonal Psychology and Santa Clara University. She is currently retired in Pleasant Hill, TN. Dr Markham was trained in the Enneagram professional program by Helen Palmer, the first person to publish information on the Enneagram. She received her certification to teach the Enneagram in 1996.

The Retreat will begin at noon on the 18th and will end after lunch on the 19th. There are two housing options: one is a hotel for which participants will pay themselves, with the other option of being hosted by someone in Atlanta. The cost of the retreat is \$45 and will include three meals. Please register here: <https://goo.gl/forms/x00Qzlf3BcSN3D5o2>.

If you have any question, please contact Rev. Heather Fosburgh at hfosburgh@secucc.org or 404-719-6572.

Holiday Office Closure

The Southeast Conference will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holidays from Sunday, December 23 through Wednesday, January 2. The Conference Office will reopen on Thursday, January 3, 2019.

News from the Wider Church



Authorized Ministry in the 21st Century Gathering

Some 200 United Church of Christ Conference and Association ministers (including our own Rev. Heather Fosburgh) gathered last week for the Authorized Ministry in the 21st Century (AM21) meeting in San Diego. Built around the theme "Wisdom for Well-Being," the biennial meeting examined 21st-century ministry in the context of change. The event modeled healthy systems and healthy ministry, emphasizing change management, and included times to share wisdom and breaks for well-being. [Read more on the UCC website.](#)

UCC General Synod Website Live

In less than eight months, members of the United Church of Christ will be converging in Milwaukee, Wisc., for the denomination's 32nd General Synod. On Monday, November 12, organizers launched the [2019 General Synod website](#), <http://www.synod2019.org>, and opened [registration](#) and housing for all delegates and visitors of the biennial gathering, taking place June 21-25, 2019 at the Wisconsin Center.



News from Our Local Congregations



Huntsville UCC Churches Join Together for Musical Celebration

Joy was in the air as the two UCC churches in Huntsville, Alabama, the United Church of Huntsville and newly affiliated Spirit of the Cross, joined together for a combined Christmas Musical Celebration at Spirit of the Cross on Sunday night, December 9. The sanctuary was full as both churches were well represented and the combined choir was simply outstanding. It was a wonderful night of worship, celebration, and fellowship. The two churches will be planning more joint worship services in the future.

Training and Learning Opportunities

2020 Back Bay Mission Trip Calendar Opens on January 1

It's time to start thinking about your church's 2020 mission trip! Mission trips to Back Bay Mission are great opportunities for learning, service, and fellowship. These week-long immersive mission experiences teach participants about poverty on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and prepare groups to serve in their own communities.

The Back Bay Mission 2020 mission trip calendar opens at midnight, central

time, on January 1, 2019. Popular dates, especially during the summer and spring break season, fill up fast. [Click here](#) to learn more about mission trips at Back Bay Mission, including how to register.

Migration and Border Crossings Seminar

Columbia Theological Seminary and Emory University's Center for the Study of Law and Religion are excited to co-host an important multidisciplinary conference entitled "Migration and Border Crossings." It will be held February 7-9, 2019 at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

The conference will bring together theologians, legal scholars, artists and leaders of faith communities to explore the causes, processes and effects of global migration. The conference presenters are by all accounts top of the line, diverse in all ways and experts in various parts of the issues of migration and border issues. It will feature keynote addresses by former Poet Laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera, and Dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School, Emilie Townes, as well as several plenary addresses and workshops that will offer insights and tools for addressing immigration related issues. Learn more on the [CTS website](#).

Learn How To Influence Your Legislators

You're invited to a special workshop on Saturday, January 19 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Philip (2744 Peachtree Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30305). There comes a time in everyone's life when they have to take a stand. While this moment is always more dramatic in the movies, it's possible that you've come to this realization regarding a particular policy or issue in your locality. And if you've decided that you want to make a change in policy and advocate for your issue in your local legislature, it's time for a little Legislative Advocacy 101. The event is sponsored by Tzedek Georgia and the New Sanctuary Movement of Atlanta.



The Art of Teaching Spiritual Discernment: A Listening Hearts Lenten Retreat

The Beecken Center of the School of Theology is proud to once again partner with Listening Hearts Ministries to offer this intensive, four-day retreat at the DuBose Conference Center. Participants will learn to facilitate and mentor spiritual discernment groups using the Listening Hearts approach. The retreat will include communal meditation activities; workshops that teach the practical aspects of teaching spiritual discernment; and a series of discernment sessions, each of which is followed by a reflective review to gain insight into the necessary elements which bring forth fruitful discernment. [Learn more on their website.](#)

Conference Calendar

Conference Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Sunday, December 23 - Wednesday, January 2, 2019

Commission on Ministry Meeting

January 3, 2019 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm EST
Online Virtual Meeting

Annual Meeting Planning Session

January 8, 2019 @ 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm EST

Online Virtual Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

January 10, 2019 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EST

Online Virtual Meeting

Winter Youth Retreat

January 18, 2019 - January 20, 2019

Blowing Rock Conference Center

Members-in-Discernment Retreat

January 18, 2019 @ 12:00 pm - January 19, 2019 @ 4:00 pm EST

Atlanta, GA

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